

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus connected to a single bus system together with other information processing apparatuses comprising:

a selecting device for selectively inputting the input information supplied from a plurality of input sources;

an acquisition device for acquiring specified information for specifying the other information processing apparatuses connected through the bus; and

a setting device for setting one of the other information processing apparatuses replacing one of the plurality of the input sources as an alternative in the selecting device, based on the acquired specified information.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first notification device for notifying the specified information corresponding to the selected one of the other information processing apparatuses when the one of the other information processing apparatuses set as one of the alternatives is selected actually as the input source; and

a second notification device for notifying the one of the input sources replaced by the currently selected one of the other information processing apparatuses, in parallel with the notification by the first notification device.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notification device for notifying only the specified

information corresponding to the other information processing apparatuses supplied with the information when the information from the other information processing apparatuses not set as the alternative is input through the bus.

- 5 4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the setting device includes:

an extraction device for extracting, based on the acquired specified information, only those of the other information processing  
10 apparatuses meeting the conditions selectable as the alternative among the plurality of the other information processing apparatuses in setting one of the other information processing apparatuses as the one of the alternatives; and

a display device for displaying only the extracted other  
15 information processing apparatuses.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a storage device for storing the acquired specified information.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
20 wherein the bus is a serial bus based on IEEE 1394 standard.

7. An information processing method executed by an information processing apparatus connected to one bus system together with other information processing apparatuses, the method comprising:

a selecting process for selectively inputting the input information  
25 supplied to each of the information processing apparatuses from a plurality of input sources;

an acquisition process for acquiring the specified information for

specifying the other information processing apparatuses connected through the bus; and

5 a setting process for setting the one of the other information processing apparatuses, as an alternative in the selecting process, in place of any one of the plurality of the input sources based on the acquired specified information.

8. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions, which executed by a computer included in an information processing apparatus connected to one bus  
10 system together with other information processing apparatuses, the instructions cause the computer to function as:

a selecting device for selectively inputting the input information supplied from a plurality of input sources;

15 an acquisition device for acquiring specified information for specifying the other information processing apparatuses connected through the bus; and

a setting device for setting one of the other information processing apparatuses replacing one of the plurality of the input sources as an alternative in the selecting device, based on the acquired specified  
20 information.